

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Barbara Beerhalter	Chair
Cynthia A. Kitlinski	Commissioner
Norma McKanna	Commissioner
Robert J. O'Keefe	Commissioner
Darrel L. Peterson	Commissioner

In the Matter of the Implementation of an
Energy Conservation Improvement Program
for Minnegasco, Inc.

ISSUE DATE: April 14, 1988

DOCKET NO. G-008/M-87-231

ORDER GRANTING EXTENSION

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On March 31, 1988, Minnegasco, Inc. (Minnegasco or the Company) filed a Pilot Commercial New Construction Rebate Project for approval by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) as part of the Company's Conservation Improvement Program (CIP).

On April 12, 1988, the Department of Public Service (DPS) requested a 15-day extension of the period for comments on the new project filing.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The period for comments on the new project filing is due to end on April 15, 1988, in accordance with Minn. Rules, part 7840.1300. The DPS indicated in its request that this period does not permit adequate time to complete a thorough analysis of the filing. The DPS indicated that it has scheduled a series of meetings with Minnegasco in order to understand and evaluate the project proposal.

Pursuant to Minn. Rules, part 7830.4400, the Commission may grant a variance to any of its rules upon finding that the following conditions apply:

1. Enforcement of the rule would impose an excessive burden upon the requestor of the variance or others affected by the rule;
2. Granting of the variance would not adversely affect the public interest; and
3. Granting of the variance would not conflict with standards imposed by law.

The Commission finds that requiring comments on the proposed project to be submitted by April 15, 1988 would impose a hardship on the DPS and other persons because of the complexity of the project filing. Further, such comments could be very important to the Commission in deciding whether to approve the project. The proposed project is different in several respects from CIP projects currently being administered by Minnegasco and other Minnesota utilities. As a result, the Commission finds that granting a 15-day extension will not adversely affect the public interest, but will serve the public interest by allowing the DPS and other persons to thoroughly study and comment on the project filing. In addition, the Commission finds that granting the variance would not conflict with any standards imposed by law.

The Commission concludes that the requirements of Minn. Rules, part 7830.4400 have been met and will order Minn. Rules, part 7840.1300 varied to permit the extended comment period.

The Commission notes that the 15-day extension would end on Saturday, April 30, 1988. In accordance with Minn. Stat. § 645.15 (1986), the deadline would be the following Monday. Accordingly, the Commission will require comments to be submitted by May 2, 1988.

ORDER

1. Minn. Rules, part 7840.1300 is hereby varied to extend the period for comments on the proposed Pilot Commercial New Construction Rebate project of Minnegasco, Inc. The new deadline for comments is May 2, 1988.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Mary Ellen Hennen
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)